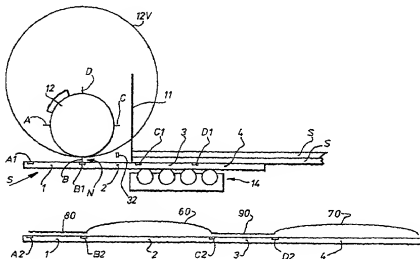




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(54) Title: SHEET MATERIAL PROCESSING



(57) Abstract

There is disclosed apparatus for feeding sheet material sequentially on demand to the take-up mechanism of processing machinery, the apparatus comprising a feed table having a gate and upon which the sheets may be stacked against the gate which allows only the lowermost sheet to pass therebeneath, a bed of rollers within the surface of the table which may be rotatably driven to advance the lowermost sheet beneath the gate to the take-up mechanism when forward drive to the rollers is arrested and means to allow the rollers to free-wheel once the lowermost sheet is being advanced thereover by said take-up mechanism and means for restraining free-wheeling over run of the rollers. Also disclosed is the processing of sheets which are longer in length than the circumference of a tool-carrying roll set used to process the sheet, the difference being accommodated by transferring sheet feed through the nip between the roll set and a separate servo-controlled drive upstream of the nip.